

REMARKS

Claims 31-34 and 39-43 are pending in this application. Claims 31 and 39 are independent claims. Claims 31-34 and 39-43 stand allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1-30 and 35-38 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 21-26, and 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schliehthorst in view of WO 02/057132 and Dombrowski et al (newly cited); and claim 6 is rejected under 25 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schliehthorst and WO 02/057132 as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of Kiekhaefer. As the rejected claims are cancelled, the rejection of those claims is moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter:

Claims 16-20 and 27-30 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As claims 16-20 and 27-30 are cancelled, only allowed subject matter is pending in this Application. Therefore, allowance of this Application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant earnestly solicits reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$120.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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